

# Pitching Prevention

2016 OBHP Conference



August 1st – 3rd, 2016  
At Callaway Gardens



Office of Behavioral Health Prevention  
Georgia Department of Behavioral Health  
& Developmental Disabilities

## About DBHDD

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities provides treatment and support services to people with mental health challenges and substance use disorders, and assists individuals who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### ***Mission***

Leading an accountable and effective continuum of care to support Georgians with behavioral health challenges, and intellectual and developmental disabilities in a dynamic health care environment.

### ***Vision***

Easy access to high-quality care that leads to a life of recovery and independence for the people we serve.

## About OBHP

The Office of Behavioral Health Prevention (OBHP) is the state agency charged with providing prevention leadership, strategic planning and services to improve the mental/emotional well-being of communities, families and individuals in Georgia.

The OBHP develops and contracts for prevention services across the state specifically designed to reduce the risks and increase protective factors linked to substance abuse related problem behaviors, suicide, and mental health.

The Office of Behavioral Health Prevention (OBHP) is working to align and promote Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Suicide Prevention which will support the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities across Georgia.

## Prevention

Prevention is a proactive process that enables individuals to create and reinforce conditions that promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles.

- ✚ Prevention must be intertwined with the general health care and social services delivery systems and provide for a full continuum of services.
- ✚ Prevention approaches and messages are most effective when tailored to specific populations and groups.
- ✚ Community involvement is a necessary component of effective prevention strategies.
- ✚ To be most effective prevention should be delivered via multiple strategies, in multiple sectors, simultaneously.



2  
0  
1  
6

# OBHP CONFERENCE PITCHING PREVENTION

August 1, 2016 - August 3, 2016

DBHDD - Office of Behavioral Health Prevention  
2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30303

Contact: Barbara Dorman | <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov> | [barbara.dorman@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:barbara.dorman@dbhdd.ga.gov) | 404-232-1251

## Welcome

By DBHDD OBHP Staff

The Office of Behavioral Health Prevention is excited to welcome you to the inaugural OBHP Prevention Conference entitled: "Pitching Prevention". Our goal is to have a successful conference that focuses specifically on prevention providers. We hope that we are able to provide you with an educational and enjoyable few days of learning, sharing and experiential activities.

*Inside This Issue* lists sections designed to help you have a successful and informative conference experience. Should you have any questions or concerns during the course of this conference, please feel free to ask any OBHP Staff for assistance. We are glad to help in any way.

We have a great starting lineup of amazing speakers, great exhibitors, and fun filled optional extracurricular activities for team building. It is our hope that you will have an engaging experience and come away with new ideas, connections and energy.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<a href="#">Welcome</a>	2
<a href="#">Agenda At-A-Glance</a>	3
<a href="#">Sessions Overview</a>	7
<a href="#">Speaker Bios</a>	16
<a href="#">Exhibitors</a>	28
<a href="#">Optional Extracurricular Activities</a>	30
<a href="#">Thanks</a>	32



**A Word  
From Our  
OBHP  
Director,  
Travis Fretwell**

I'd like to welcome everyone and thank you for your hard work and continued dedication to the prevention field. We have an all-star team that is making huge advances within our communities. This conference is our training camp opener for a great season of prevention work to come. Our speakers and workshop presenters have been recruited from across the US based on feedback from you and your home team communities.

We would not be here and could not continue our efforts if not for the support from Georgia's communities. This is why our theme for this first OBHP conference is "Pitching Prevention". We want to continue to promote the great work we do in:

- Identifying and documenting what works best in different communities with differing populations we serve.
- Provide the services that work best in culturally appropriate ways for prevention.

Please enjoy the conference and don't forget to give us feedback so that we can keep improving and "Pitching Prevention" across Georgia.

# Conference Agenda At-A-Glance

## DAY 1 – August 1<sup>st</sup>

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM      Check-In

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM      Breakfast – In Longleaf CDE Room  
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM      Plenary Welcome & Announcements by Travis Fretwell and  
Monica Johnson  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM      Plenary Session: Stephanie McCladdie presenting on  
*“Intersection of Substance Abuse Prevention, Suicide Prevention  
& Mental Health Promotion”*

---

10:45 AM - 11:55 AM      Workshop – In Bayberry 1&2 Room  
Marieke Johnson presenting on *“ACE’s Understanding Youth  
Trauma”*

10:45 AM - 11:55 AM      Workshop – In Bayberry 3&4 Room  
Cheryl Benefield presenting on *“Project Aware: Advancing  
Wellness & Resilience in Education”*

10:45 AM - 11:55 AM      Workshop – In Longleaf A Room  
William DeJong presenting on *“Alcohol/Underage Drinking”*

10:45 AM - 11:55 AM      Workshop – In Longleaf B Room  
Elvira Elek presenting on *“Working with Local Evaluators – What  
to Ask/ What to Look For?”*

10:45 AM - 11:55 AM      Workshop – In Sourwood 2&3 Room  
Sally vander Straeten presenting on *“Evidence Based Practices  
for Suicide Prevention with Youth”*

10:45 AM - 11:55 AM      Workshop – In Sourwood 4&5 Room  
Lourdes Vazquez presenting on *“Alignment of Substance Abuse  
Prevention, Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Promotion”*

### **Lunch Plenary 12:10 PM – 1:30 PM In Longleaf CDE Room**

Phillip Graham presenting on *“Using Data to Pitch Substance Abuse Prevention”*

1:40 PM - 2:50 PM      Workshop – In Bayberry 1&2 Room  
Marieke Johnson presenting on *“ACE’s Understanding Youth  
Trauma”*

1:40 PM - 2:50 PM      Workshop – In Bayberry 3&4 Room  
Cheryl Benefield presenting on *“Project Aware ‘Overview’”*

1:40 PM - 2:50 PM      Workshop – In Longleaf A Room  
William DeJong presenting on *“Alcohol/Underage Drinking”*

- 1:40 PM - 2:50 PM      Workshop – In Longleaf B Room  
Sarah Schwartz presenting on *“Mental Health First Aid Overview”*
- 1:40 PM - 2:50 PM      Workshop – In Sourwood 4&5 Room  
Lourdes Vazquez presenting on *“Alignment of Substance Abuse Prevention, Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Promotion”*
- 
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM      Workshop – In Bayberry 1&2 Room  
Sheri McGuinness presenting on *“Suicide Prevention in Georgia”*
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM      Workshop – In Bayberry 3&4 Room  
Sally vander Straeten presenting on *“Evidence Based Practices for Suicide Prevention with Youth”*
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM      In Longleaf A Room  
V4P Meet & Greet
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM      Workshop – In Longleaf B Room  
Sarah Schwartz presenting on *“Mental Health First Aid Overview”*
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM      Workshop – In Sourwood 2&3 Room  
Diane Sherman presenting on *“ASAM’s Efforts to Support Prevention & Treatment of COD”*

**DAY 2 – August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM      Check-In

- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM      Breakfast - In Longleaf CDE Room
- 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM      Plenary Session: Taunya A. Lowe, Ph.D. presenting on *“The Leadership Mindset of Prevention”*
- 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM      Plenary Session: Jeffrey Jenson presenting on *“Unleashing the Power of Prevention”*
- 

- 10:45 AM - 11:55 AM      Workshop – In Bayberry 1&2 Room  
Jeffrey Jenson presenting on *“Promoting Behavioral Health Through Effective Prevention Interventions: School, Family, Community, and Environmental Strategies”*
- 10:45 AM - 11:55 AM      Workshop – In Bayberry 3&4 Room  
Tonia Schaffer presenting on *“Health Disparities 101”*

- 10:45 AM - 11:55 AM      Workshop – In Longleaf A Room  
Wes Nemenz presenting on "Part 1 - Engaging Youth LGBTQ Communities (Sexual Orientation)"
- 10:45 AM - 11:55 AM      Workshop – In Longleaf B Room  
Andy Cummings presenting on "Law Enforcements, Working with the Juvenile Courts"
- 10:45 AM - 11:55 AM      Workshop – In Sourwood 2&3 Room  
Pierluigi Mancini presenting on "Cultural Competency"
- 10:45 AM - 11:55 AM      Workshops – In Sourwood 4&5 Room  
Sally vander Straeten, Nakia Valentine, & Tiffany Chen presenting on "Suicide Prevention OBHP Activities"

**Lunch Plenary 12:10 PM – 1:30 PM In Longleaf CDE Room**  
Jon Lawson Presenting on "*Get Your Information Out There!*"

- 1:40 PM - 2:50 PM      Workshop – In Bayberry 1&2 Room  
Sheri McGuinness presenting on "Understanding Suicide Prevention Intervention and Aftercare"
- 1:40 PM - 2:50 PM      Workshop – In Bayberry 3&4 Room  
Tonia Schaffer presenting on "Health Disparities 101"
- 1:40 PM - 2:50 PM      Workshop – In Longleaf A Room  
Wes Nemenz presenting on "Part 2- Engaging Youth LGBTQ Communities (Gender Identification)"
- 1:40 PM - 2:50 PM      Workshop – In Longleaf B Room  
Andy Cummings presenting on "Law Enforcements, Working with the Juvenile Courts"
- 1:40 PM - 2:50 PM      Workshop – In Sourwood 4&5 Room  
Merrill Norton presenting on "Opioids and the Adolescent Brain"

- 
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM      Workshop – In Bayberry 1&2 Room  
Jon Lawson presenting on "Social Media"
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM      Workshop – In Bayberry 3&4 Room  
Pierluigi Mancini presenting on "Cultural Competency"
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM      In Longleaf A Room  
V4P Meet & Greet

- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM                      Workshop – In Longleaf B Room  
Sheri McGuinness presenting on “Understanding Suicide Prevention Intervention and Aftercare”
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM                      Workshop – In Sourwood 2&3 Room  
Reinette Arnold presenting on "Behavioral Health Link Crisis & Access Line Overview"
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM                      Workshop – In Sourwood 4&5 Room  
Merrill Norton presenting on "Opioids and the Adolescent Brain"

**DAY 3 – August 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM                      Breakfast - In Longleaf CDE Room
- 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM                      Farewell Plenary by Travis Fretwell and Donna Dent
- 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM                      Plenary Session: Kevin Hines presenting on “Understanding Suicide – A Personal & Family Perspective”
- 10:45 AM - 11:55 AM                      Workshop – In Bayberry 1&2 Room  
Kevin Hines presenting on "Keep Yourself Mentally Healthy"
- 10:45 AM - 11:55AM                      Workshop – In Bayberry 3&4 Room  
Dana McCrary presenting on "Parent Engagement/ Georgia’s Peer Support Services"
- 10:45 AM - 11:55 AM                      Workshop – In Longleaf A Room  
Howard Tyler presenting on "Working with DOR & CVIOG on Compliance Checks"
- 10:45 AM - 11:55 AM                      Workshop – In Longleaf B Room  
Laura Lucas presenting on "Project LAUNCH"
- 10:45 AM - 11:55 AM                      Workshop – In Sourwood 4&5 Room  
Sally vander Straeten, Nakia Valentine, & Tiffany Chen presenting on “Suicide Prevention OBHP Activities”

**ADJOURN - 12:00 PM**



## Sessions Overview

**Andrew Cummings, M.A.**

***Law Enforcements, Working with the Juvenile Courts***

acummings@aocg.org

This workshop focuses on working and communicating with law enforcement agencies regarding juvenile courts. There will be coverage regarding a basic understanding of the Georgia Court System, a look at where to focus your prevention strategy, to what works in offender programming. This should help you examine how your prevention strategy will work in collaboration with the juvenile court system and law enforcement.

**Cheryl Benefield, Ed.S.**

***Project Aware: Advancing Wellness & Resilience in Education***

cbenefield@doe.k12.ga.us

In 2014, Georgia was awarded one of 20 State Education Agency AWARE grants as part of President Obama's "Now Is The Time" plan. Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education) is designed to develop model practices and procedures for raising awareness, reducing stigma, and facilitating access to mental health services in local school districts. This workshop will incorporate prevalence data from the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Georgia Department of Education's Student Health Survey to examine the impact of youth mental health and social-emotional wellbeing on academic achievement and secondary outcomes. Participants will be provided with information on attending or hosting Youth Mental Health First Aid training in their communities.

**Dana McCrary**

***Parent Engagement/ Georgia's Peer Support Services***

therighttimetodogood@gmail.com

Georgia continues to be one of the leading states in Peer Support implementation and sustainability. Peer Support services expand across both child and adult systems and includes lived experience with mental health and substance abuse. This workshop will focus on the importance of family recovery to both the child and the family and the impact of parent and youth peer support as a meaningful tool that taps into the family's inherent strengths, competencies, and healing capacity to empower the family recovery process. This workshop is in support to the DBHDD emerging Medicaid service for Parent and Youth Peer Support. This new service adaptation adopts Georgia's model on Peer Support, uniquely designing it to support parents, permanent caregivers, and youth who are living with Mental Health Conditions and/or Substance Use Disorders. Peer Support is a direct service support to youth and families and promotes Family Recovery, Resiliency, Respect, and Wellness.



**Diane Sherman, Ph.D.**

***ASAM's Efforts to Support Prevention & Treatment of Co-occurring Disorders***

dsherman@actsconsultinginc.com

This workshop will review the ASAM dimensions, core principles and integrated services. As advances in the conceptual framework for integrated services has begun to refine, it is necessary to assure the provision of comprehensive and successful integrated services to individuals with complex and co-occurring conditions or disorders. Program administrators and practitioners will need to explore their development, implementation, evolution, and expertise from a single type service toward a “capable” or “enhanced” environment of care.

**Elvira Elek, Ph.D.**

***Working With Local Evaluators – What to Ask / What to Look For?***

eelek@rti.org

Getting the most out of your work with local evaluators (exploring benefits and overcoming the challenges). This workshop will help providers understand how local evaluators can help them show the impacts of their interventions on their local communities, understand implementation challenges, and provide feedback for improvements. Clarifying the role of local evaluators, the process of evaluation, and the expected results.

**Howard Tyler**

***Working with Dept. Of Revenue & Carl Vincent Institute Of Government on Compliance Checks***

howard.tyler2@gmail.com

This workshop will provide a brief history of these enforcement areas, what the areas do and what they do not do, statutory requirements, operational considerations, and how local jurisdictions may and may not be involved. We will explore how a comprehensive cohesive strategy may assist in prevention efforts in Georgia and opportunities to further collaborate and synergize efforts for underage alcohol and underage tobacco use prevention. We will also explore how compliance and enforcement data might be used to the benefit of all stakeholders. This workshop will generate ideas, strategic initiatives and resources not previously identified.

**Jeff Jenson, Ph.D.**

***Unleashing the Power of Prevention***

Jeffrey.Jenson@du.edu

Behavioral health problems among young people exact a heavy individual, social, and economic toll in the United States. Strong evidence from the past three decades indicates that we can prevent many behavioral health problems before they emerge. This workshop will review progress in promoting healthy youth development and preventing behavioral health problems among young people. Strategies to advance prevention practice and policy identified in *Unleashing the Power of Prevention*, an initiative recognized by the National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare is described. By

unleashing the power of prevention through widespread use of proven approaches, we can help all youth grow up to become healthy and productive adults.

**Jeff Jenson, Ph.D.**

***Promoting Behavioral Health through Effective Preventive Interventions: School, Family, Community, and Environmental Strategies***

Jeffrey.Jenson@du.edu

This workshop is for program personnel and practitioners who are interested in learning more about effective preventive interventions. Resources like the Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development will be used to illustrate effective school, family, community, and environmental prevention and early intervention programs <http://www.blueprintsprograms.com>. The workshop is appropriate for practitioners, administrators, and policymakers interested in implementing preventive practices for behavioral health problems.

**Jonathan Lawson**

***Get Your Information Out There!***

***Coalition, Communication and the Expanding Influence of Social Media***

jonlawson32@gmail.com

This plenary session will serve as an introduction to social media communication for organizations that want to use social media but don't know where to start. We will begin with a brief look at the current state of social media and its usage before moving to a more specific discussion tailored toward the unique issues that community and public service organizations face in communication. These unique issues will then be used to illustrate how organizations can build a comprehensive communication strategy that includes social media as a cornerstone of working for and within the community. The main thrust of this discussion will involve how to determine what platform(s) are appropriate for an organization and how to use them to facilitate positive engagement with the community. We will then look at how that engagement can help drive an organization's goals and programs. This will allow any organization to better serve its community, no matter the size and scope of its programs

**Jonathan Lawson**

***Social Media***

jonlawson32@gmail.com

The workshop will allow organizations to get some hands-on experience with their social media accounts and get specific answers about their unique situations. Participants will go through the process of creating or refining at least one social media channel for their organization. This will give them experience and knowledge that can immediately be put to work for their organization, and that can be used to train others both within and without the organization. **\*\*At least one participant from each organization should bring a laptop with wifi access.** Tablets (such as iPads or Microsoft Surfaces) can be used, but laptops are preferred.

**Kevin Hines**

***Understanding Suicide – A Personal & Family Perspective***

kevin@kevinhinesstory.com

Kevin Hines shares his life story as a person diagnosed with a brain disease, Bipolar Disorder Type 2. He details his experience as a past consumer as he was being escorted to a treatment facility in the back of a San Francisco Police Department squad car for a 5150 (involuntary psychiatric hold). He communicates what made this experience a good one for him and what he and the officers learned during this experience.

**Laura P. Lucas, M.S.**

***Project LAUNCH***

lauraplucas@gmail.com

The workshop will provide an overview of Project LAUNCH (Linking Action in Unmet Needs in Children's Health) that promotes wellness for young children birth to age 8 by addressing the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of their development. The Georgia Department of Public Health was funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to work with a pilot community, Muscogee County, for five years, pursuing the dual goals and improving systems and services, guided by the following five strategies (1) screening and assessment in a range of child-serving settings, (2) integration of behavioral health in to primary care settings, (3) mental health consultation in early care and education, (4) enhanced home visiting through increased focus on social and emotional well-being; and (5) family strengthening and parent skills trainings. The long-term goal of Project LAUNCH is to ensure that all children enter school ready to learn and able to succeed. Project LAUNCH seeks to improve coordination across child-serving systems, build infrastructure, and increase access to high-quality prevention and wellness promotion services for children and their families.

**Lourdes Vazquez, M.S.W.**

***Alignment of Substance Abuse Prevention, Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Promotion***

LVazquez@edc.org

This workshop will provide an overview of the connection and alignment between substance abuse prevention, mental health promotion and suicide prevention in the context of Georgia, and the risk and protective factors that are common to substance abuse, mental health and suicidal behavior. The presenter will discuss considerations for initial collaborative work between these sectors.

**Marieke Johnson, M.A.**

***ACE's Understanding Youth Trauma***

mariekejohnson@verizon.net

Many of us have had experiences in our lives that have had such an impact on us that we always remember them. What happens if, when we remember them, it's not always good? Can that

change? Young adults often don't understand the lasting impact of adverse experiences in childhood such as abuse, neglect, abandonment and how these experiences stay with them into adulthood. These experiences shape who we are; they do not always have to be seen as negative. Youth can understand them, make meaning from them and use the learning to grow. This workshop will provide tips, strategies, and tools to support youth and young adults in making sense of childhood experiences and how to use them as growth opportunities. The participants will also learn more about Youth M.O.V.E. National's recent publication *A Youth Guide to Understanding Trauma* and additional resources.

**Merrill A. Norton, Pharm. D., D.Ph., ICCDP-D**

***Opioids and the Adolescent Brain***

mernort@uga.edu

A 2012 survey by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found that about 669,000 people over age 12 had used heroin at some point in the year. About 156,000 of those were first-time users, and roughly 467,000 were considered heroin-dependent -- more than double the number in 2002. About 4.6 million people -- about 1.8% of the teenage and adult population -- reported using heroin at some point in their lives, the survey found. The average first-time user was 23. Estimates on the number of U.S. heroin addicts range from 300,000 to 500,000, up about 75 percent from five years ago. And while that is just a minor portion of the nearly 24 million Americans that abuse drugs overall, heroin use is growing faster than all others. Combined mortality data from 28 states, encompassing 56% of the U.S. population, indicate an increasing problem with fatal overdoses from heroin/opioids from 2010 to 2012. Death rates from opioid pain reliever (OPR) declined overall but remained more than twice as high for heroin overdose death rates. Changes in heroin death rates were positively correlated with changes in OPR death rates. Mortality from overdoses of any type of drug rose slightly. This workshop will give a scientific overview of this deadly opioid epidemic and effective treatment options for the heroin/opioid adolescent.

**Nakia Valentine, M.B.A., Sally vander Straeten, A.C.S.W., & Tiffany Chen**

***Suicide Prevention OBHP Activities***

Nakia.valentine@dbhdd.ga.gov

Sally.vanderStraeten@dbhdd.ga.gov

Tiffany.chen@dbhdd.ga.gov

This workshop provides a breakdown and overview of the DBHDD Office of Behavioral Health Prevention's suicide prevention efforts in the state of Georgia. The overview covers DBHDD's Policy 01-118 (Suicide Prevention, Screening, Brief Intervention, and Monitoring), House Bill 198 passed by the Georgia House and Senate to establish suicide awareness and prevention training and policies in Georgia public schools through the Department of Education, and the Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Youth Suicide Prevention Grant targeting youth ages 10-24. The presentation also introduces other activities that the OBHP suicide prevention team supports in communities throughout the state, such as gatekeeper and professional suicide prevention trainings, community coalitions, and services for survivors of suicide. Lastly, suicide prevention resources are provided for further information and education.

**Phillip W. Graham, Dr.P.H., M.P.H.**  
***Using Data to Pitch Substance Abuse Prevention***  
pgraham@rti.org

This workshop explores using data to effectively communicate information, as well as evaluation to increase accountability, improve processes and programs, and develop the knowledge base. By using data properly, you can tailor the narrative used in information dissemination. Participants will also learn how to use this to their advantage when interacting with Funders, Stakeholders and Decision-makers.

**Pierluigi Mancini, Ph.D., NCACII**  
***Cultural Competency***  
pmancini@cetpa.org

Continuous interplay between individuals, their perceptions, attitudes, assumptions, and behaviors, and their environment and social institutions creates dynamically evolving cultures and subcultures, where the whole is more than the sum of its parts. That is, groups are bound together by the interactions of their members, as well as by their similarities to each other and differences from other groups. Culture is not static; it is constantly changing in response to the internal interaction of its members, to interaction between different cultural groups, and to the needs and threats experienced by group members. This workshop will explore the importance of culture and cultural competence and provide participants with tools to develop individual and organizational cultural competencies.

**Reinette V. Arnold, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., M.A.C.**  
***Behavioral Health Link Crisis & Access Line Overview***  
reinettevarnold@gmail.com

A crisis has no schedule, often leaving individuals in need of crisis intervention services isolated or with limited options. The need for effective crisis intervention services with licensed mental health professionals are imperative in order to connect individuals to the right services at the right time. This workshop provides a detailed overview of Behavioral Health Link (BHL) and their specialized crisis intervention services. BHL in partnership with Beacon Health Options and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities provides statewide access to crisis services. The company currently manages two programs: Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL) and mobile crisis response services (MCRS). Statewide access to crisis services provide support to individuals, families, and other stakeholders and promote safety and suicide prevention directly in the community.

**Sally vander Straeten, M.S.W.**

***Evidence Based Practices for Suicide Prevention with Youth***

Sally.vanderStraeten@dbhdd.ga.gov

This workshop presents a range of evidence-based strategies for suicide prevention drawn from NREPP that are appropriate to be used with youth in a variety of community settings, including schools. These programs include Sources of Strength (SOURCES), Signs of Suicide (SOS), LIFELINES: Prevention, and Linking Education and Awareness of Depression and Suicide (LEADS). Additionally, Sources of Strength, The Good Behavior Game, and Strengthening Families, three programs that address shared risk and protective factors between alcohol prevention and suicide prevention as well as shared strategies at the individual level will be presented. Each individual program strategy will be explained and practical implications for adoption in community settings explored. The workshop will conclude with an opportunity for questions from and dialog with participants.

**Sarah K. Schwartz, M.S.W., M.B.A., M.H.A.**

***Mental Health First Aid Overview***

Sarah@mhageorgia.org

Mental illness is common, costly, and devastating. Each year, 1 in 4 Americans experience a diagnosable mental illness. To deal most effectively with this ever-present issue, MHA of Georgia offers Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA/YMHFA). These 8-hour evidence-based training programs have been proven successful both within the United States and internationally. The overall goal of MHFA/YMHFA is to improve the mental health knowledge and skills of Georgians in responding to early-stage mental illness and mental health crises, including co-occurring substance abuse issues. Additional advantages of these programs are that they de-stigmatize mental illness while also improving the mental health of those who are trained. In this workshop, participants will learn more about the content of the 8 hour training courses, how and where they are taught, and what participants of the training programs learn. MHFA/YMHFA does NOT train individuals to act as therapists; rather, it trains them to be more aware of mental health issues and provide the tools to make a difference in others' lives.

**Sheri McGuinness**

***Understanding Suicide Prevention Intervention and Aftercare***

spangeorgia@aol.com

This workshop will focus on presenting what the crisis of SUICIDE looks like, including the associated risks, signs and protective factors. We will discuss critical aftercare procedures especially if it is someone you know, work with, or a family member. In addition the workshop will also cover self-care for helpers: Getting the help that you need and available resources.

**Stephanie McCladdie**

***Intersection of Substance Abuse Prevention, Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Promotion***

Stephanie.McCladdie@samhsa.hhs.gov

The ability to identify Risk and Protective Factors for Mental, Emotional and Behavioral disorders across the Life Cycle is one of the keys for individuals to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles that create supportive living conditions and environments for Positive Behavioral Health outcomes. Substance Abuse Prevention, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Promotion are truly a challenge to an integrated approach for services. Are we attempting to mobilize communities to understand and join our song?

**Tonia M. Schaffer, MPH**

***Health Disparities 101***

tschaffer6797@gmail.com

This workshop will discuss health disparities in the context of prevention. Specifically, we will look at what exactly is a health disparity, why looking at health disparities is important, and how we can apply it to prevention work. Looking at disparities can help shape how we go about in doing prevention, ranging from programs to policy change.

**Taunya A. Lowe, Ph.D.**

***The Leadership Mindset of Prevention***

<http://www.drtaunyalowe.com/contacts/>

This Plenary Session will focus on the mindset of Prevention Providers as Leaders and change agents. Dr. Lowe will explore the qualities of a successful leader, identifying them in yourself and building them in your workforce team. She will provide tips for and clarify need and value of fostering leadership in community champions and the Prevention leaders for tomorrow's workforce.

**Wes Nemenz**

***Engaging Youth LGBTQ Communities (Sexual Orientation)***

[wesnemenz@gmail.com](mailto:wesnemenz@gmail.com)

We will use interactive activities and discussion to learn about the basics of sexual orientation and some of the identities that comprise it. From lesbian, gay and bisexual to newer, lesser known identities like 'genderqueer' or 'asexual,' participants will learn more about how youth are identifying and why. From a public health approach, we will identify best practice recommendations for serving young people and contributing to their wellness regardless of how they identify. Through interactive discussion and lecture, participants will gain new insight to the fundamentals of gender, sex and the identities that surround these concepts. We will learn about transgender identities, what it means to be "gender non-conforming," and how to serve young people who are exploring their gender identity. This workshop aims to provide



participants with the basics of supporting transgender youth and the terminology and tools to better serve this population.

**William DeJong, Ph.D.**  
***Alcohol/Underage Drinking***  
[wdejong@bu.edu](mailto:wdejong@bu.edu)

The purpose of workshop is to update the participants' research on the prevention of alcohol-related traffic deaths since the 1988 Surgeon General's Workshop on Drunk Driving. Four primary areas of research are reviewed here: (a) general deterrence policies, (b) alcohol control policies, (c) mass communications campaigns, including advertising restrictions, and (d) community traffic safety programs. Modern efforts to combat drunk driving in the United States began with specific deterrence strategies to punish convicted drunk drivers, and then evolved to include general deterrence strategies that were targeted to the population as a whole. Efforts next expanded to include the alcohol side of the problem, with measures installed to decrease underage drinking and excessive alcohol consumption. In the next several years, greater efforts are needed on all these fronts. Also needed, however, are programs that integrate drunk driving prevention with other traffic safety initiatives.

## Speaker Biographies

### **Andrew Cummings, M.A.**

[acummings@aocg.org](mailto:acummings@aocg.org)

Andrew Cummings is a consultant specializing in technical assistance and evaluation services for accountability courts and clinical organizations. He served as the Executive Director of the DeKalb County Drug Court (DCDC) from its founding in 2002 to July 2013. The program works with non-violent, drug-dependent offenders who are assessed as moderate to high-risk (recidivism) and high-needs. The DCDC is nationally regarded as a model for outcomes, evidence-based practices, and innovative programming. Mr. Cummings has a Masters Degree in Developmental Psychology from San Francisco State University, and 20 years of program development and management experience working with difficult to treat populations. His content expertise includes addiction, child deprivation/abuse, criminality, homelessness, and mental illness. Mr. Cummings has authored and been the project manager on multiple SAMHSA and BJA grant proposals and is a recipient of the DeKalb Bar Association's, Liberty Bell Award (2008), the Georgia Sociological Association's, Community Justice Service Award (2010), and the Judicial Council of Georgia, Standing Committee on Accountability Court's, Drug Court Hero Award (2013). He has served as an advisory member on multiple subcommittees for Judicial Council of Georgia, Standing Committee on Accountability Courts and as a peer-reviewer for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) treatment standards publication (2015). He is also well regarded in the field as a presenter and an advocate for accountability courts and data-driven programming.

Mr. Cummings is a principle in Advanced Outcomes Consulting Group, LLC, a consulting practice focused on accountability courts, offender treatment, and criminal justice reform. AOCG is contracted with the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) to provide technical support and training for Georgia accountability courts. Additional work includes the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) regarding the development of a statewide data exchange and delivery of evidence-based treatment practices; as well as Casey Family Programs, which is supporting Georgia Family Treatment Courts (FTC) treatment model and coordination with the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS).



### **Cheryl Benefield, Ed.S.**

[cbenefield@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cbenefield@doe.k12.ga.us)

As a Family and Community Engagement Specialist for Project AWARE at the Georgia Department of Education, Cheryl's work includes supporting school districts in their efforts to increase equitable access to mental health services through the inclusion of family and youth voice at all levels. During her 24 years in schools, Cheryl worked in both general and special education as a teacher and administrator. Most recently, she served as a district level Family Engagement Coordinator and Parent Mentor. A seasoned Youth Mental Health First Aid instructor, Cheryl conducts trainings throughout the state and is one of only 35 Mental Health First Aid Quality Evaluators in the U.S. She is a member of the Community Action Board for the Georgia Child Traumatic Stress Initiative at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and was recently elected to the Board of Directors for NAMI Georgia.

**Dana McCrary**

[therighttimetodogood@gmail.com](mailto:therighttimetodogood@gmail.com)

Dana McCrary is the Parent & Youth Peer Specialist Coordinator, for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Office of Children, Young Adults & Families.

She previously served as the Family Liaison with the Georgia KidsNet Child and Adolescent Infrastructure Grant (CASIG), a project designed to rebuild the way in which services are delivered to families with children who have Serious Emotional Disorder (SED).

Dana also brings her life experience of being a parent of a youth with behavioral health challenges as well as the voices of the many families she has had the privilege to support through partnerships with DeKalb Family Policy Council, Youth Matters, Federation of Families and the DeKalb Juvenile Justice Drug Court Program. Each of these programs supports families through, training, advocacy, coordination of services and community partnerships. Dana enjoys advocating for youth and families and is committed to being a part of more successful outcomes.



**Diane Sherman, Ph.D.**

[dsherman@actsconsultinginc.com](mailto:dsherman@actsconsultinginc.com)

Dr. Diane Sherman, PhD, has been a substance abuse professional since 1975. She earned her Doctorate in Industrial / Organizational Psychology from Capella University in 2007. Dr. Sherman's career started in the United States Army where she proudly served her country for 15 years as a Behavioral Science Specialist. Since 1991, she provides consultation relevant to state regulatory requirements, national accreditation standards, program technical assistance, and program implementation of behavioral health services. Dr. Sherman has presented at national conferences, including NAADAC and NADCP as well as state sponsored schools of addiction studies in Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama on ASAM Placement Criteria.



**Elvira Elek, Ph.D.**

[eelek@rti.org](mailto:eelek@rti.org)

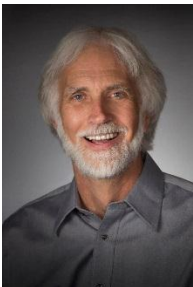
Elvira Elek, Ph.D. is a public health analyst in the Drug, Violence, and Delinquency Prevention research group in the Center for Justice, Safety and Resiliency at RTI International. For more than 15 years, Dr. Elek has worked as an analyst, project director, and co-investigator of multiple community-based evaluations and research studies related to substance use prevention interventions. Dr. Elek's more recent work focused on developing the evaluation plans and analyses of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grants (SPF SIG) across multiple states. For the past 2 years she helped lead national cross-site evaluations of four SAMHSA community-based programs focused on reducing alcohol use, prescription drug misuse, other substance use, and related consequences.



**Howard Tyler**

[howard.tyler2@gmail.com](mailto:howard.tyler2@gmail.com)

Howard attended Middle Georgia College obtaining an Associate of Science in Natural Sciences - Biology. He later attended and graduated with honors from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College obtaining an Associate of Science in Social Sciences – Criminal Justice. He began his law enforcement career with the Donalsonville Police Department, later moving to the Seminole County Sheriff’s Department and then to the Department of Revenue (DOR). He has been with DOR since 1985, working his way up through the ranks to his current assignment as Division Director. He currently holds certifications as a Georgia Peace Officer, Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) General Instructor, POST Field Training Officer, POST Firearms Instructor, POST EMS Instructor, POST Executive, Georgia Emergency Medical Technician, and EMS Level 1 Instructor.



**Jeff Jenson, Ph.D.**

[Jeffrey.Jenson@du.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.Jenson@du.edu)

Jeff Jenson, Ph.D., is the *Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Professor for Children and Youth* in the Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver. His research focuses on the application of a public health approach to preventing child and adolescent health and behavior problems and on the evaluation of preventive interventions aimed at promoting healthy youth development. Dr. Jenson has published seven books and more than 100 articles and chapters on topics of child and adolescent development and prevention science. He is Chair of the Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health and co-author of *Unleashing the Power of Prevention*, an initiative recognized by the National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. Dr. Jenson is a fellow of Society for Social Work and Research and the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.



**Jonathan Lawson**

[jonlawson32@gmail.com](mailto:jonlawson32@gmail.com)

Jonathan Lawson is a consultant based just outside Seattle in King County, Washington. While studying for his B.S. in Psychology at Boise State University, Jon worked as a Substance Prevention Fellow at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, engaging with community groups on issues that surround drug abuse and prevention. After the end of his fellowship, he moved to Loyola University Chicago to pursue a Master’s of Public Health specializing in Policy and Management.

A former Certified Prevention Specialist, behavioral health research analyst, and political campaign staffer, Jon has shifted his professional focus to helping deal with communication issues that affect public health organizations in an effort to better educate and foster discussion among stakeholders.



**Kevin Hines**

[kevin@kevinhinesstory.com](mailto:kevin@kevinhinesstory.com)

Kevin Hines is an award-winning global speaker, bestselling author, documentary filmmaker, suicide prevention and mental health advocate who reaches audiences with his story of an unlikely survival and his strong will to live. Two years after he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, he attempted to take his life by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. He is one of only 34 (less than 1%) to survive the fall and he is the only Golden Gate Bridge jump survivor who is actively spreading the message of living mentally healthy around the globe.

He was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Council of Behavioral Health in partnership with Eli Lilly. Kevin has also been awarded by SAMSHA as a Voice Awards Fellow and Award Winner, an Achievement Winner by the US Veterans Affairs and received several Marine General's Medals. He also sits on the boards of the International Bipolar Foundation (IBPF), the Bridge Rail Foundation (BRF) and the Mental Health Association of San Francisco (MHASF).

Previously, he was a board member of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's Consumer Survivors Sub-Committee. Kevin was a two-term member of San Francisco's Mental Health Board and has spoken in congressional hearings alongside Patrick Kennedy in support of The Mental Health Parity Bill.

Kevin released his bestselling memoir titled *Cracked Not Broken, Surviving and Thriving After A Suicide Attempt* in 2013. He is currently producing a documentary titled *Suicide: The Ripple Effect*.

His story was featured in the 2006 film "The Bridge" by the film director and producer Eric Steel. Thousands of people have reached out to him expressing thanks for his message of hope.

Kevin believes in the power of the human spirit and in the fact that you can find the ability to live mentally well. His mantra: "Life is a gift, that is why they call it the present. Cherish it always."



**Laura P. Lucas**

[lauraplucas@gmail.com](mailto:lauraplucas@gmail.com)

Laura graduated with a Masters of Science in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Alabama with the objective of working with children and families to address stressors that affect the family and to prevent future stressors in the lives of children. After working directly with troubled children and their families as a multi-systemic In-home crisis counselor for several years, Laura began working in the administrative side of children's programs and has held several positions with various non-profit

and governmental agencies to provide children and families quality services. Laura has worked with Family Guidance Center of Alabama, The Boy Scouts of America, Youth Villages, DeKalb County – Human Development Department, Viewpoint Health, and Child Abuse Prevention Services. Laura is currently working for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities as the Young Child Wellness Partner for Project LAUNCH, a program that focuses on children ages 0-8 and their families to promote whole health, address risk factors, identify mental, developmental and behavioral health issues as early as possible, supporting and educating parents and to create an early childhood system of care for every young child and their family. Laura lives in Atlanta with her husband and two sons, ages 6 and 1.



**Lourdes Vazquez**

[LVazquez@edc.org](mailto:LVazquez@edc.org)

As coordinator for SAMHSA’s Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) Southeast Resource Team, Lourdes is responsible for managing and supervising the delivery of training and technical assistance (T/TA) to the service area’s 12 states and jurisdictions. She coordinates and delivers training and technical assistance to grantees as they seek to reduce the impact of alcohol and other drug use through the application of the strategic planning process. She previously served as training and technical assistance specialist for the Northeast and Southeast Service Areas.

Prior to joining the CAPT in 2004, Lourdes managed the State Incentive Grant in Puerto Rico. She brings extensive experience in prevention and treatment of substance abuse and mental health problems in multiple settings, including high-need urban communities; program management; organizational cultural competency, and building multi-sector partnerships. Lourdes earned her Masters in Social Work degree from the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan. She is an international certified prevention professional and a licensed social worker.



**Marieke Johnson, MS**

[mariekejohnson@verizon.net](mailto:mariekejohnson@verizon.net)

Marieke Johnson, MS – Currently Ms. Johnson serves as Director of Member Services for Youth M.O.V.E. National and in her role supports a chapter network of youth advocates spanning 38 states. Her work includes providing technical assistance and support in the areas of youth engagement, positive youth development, youth peer support, youth voice in advocacy and policy, trauma informed care, and more. Previously Ms. Johnson utilized her combined educational, professional, and personal experiences to support and mentor Youth Support Partners as a Supervisor/Coach with Allegheny County Department of Human Services. Additional past roles include work in various mental health settings in Allegheny County for the past 14 years. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelors degree in Psychology, Ms. Johnson recently completed her Masters in Professional Counseling at Carlow University.



**Merrill A. Norton, Pharm. D., D.Ph., ICCDP-D**

[mernort@uga.edu](mailto:mernort@uga.edu)

Dr. Norton is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy with his specialty areas to include psychopharmacology and addiction pharmacy. He has also been a faculty member of the Fairleigh-Dickinson University Postdoctoral Training Program in the Masters of Psychopharmacology, Alliant International University of San Francisco College of Psychology, University of Georgia School of Continuing Education, and Berry College in the areas of Psychopharmacology and Addiction Pharmacy. His area of specialty in addiction pharmacy is the management of chronic pain in the addicted patient.

Dr. Merrill Norton was recently honored by the Georgia Addiction Counselors Association in receiving the prestigious Distinguished Service Award for 2015. The award is bestowed on individuals for recognition of their long term support and commitment to the treatment and welfare of those affected by alcohol and drug addiction in Georgia and nationally. Dr. Norton's efforts of educating thousands of behavioral health practitioners nationally to the disease states of substance use disorders and his dedication to the early prevention and intervention of addictive disease in Georgia's families makes him a person uniquely qualified for this award. Also, Dr. Norton was the 2009 recipient of the Georgia School of Addiction Studies (GSAS) Excellence in Addiction Treatment Individual Achievement Award "for his unselfish dedication to the treatment of addicted families, not only in the state of Georgia, but nationally." Dr. Norton was recognized by the GSAS Board of Directors for the ongoing development of undergraduate and graduate curriculum and drug research in the area of addiction pharmacy.

His book, *The Pharmacology of Psychoactive Chemical Use, Abuse, and Dependence*, and his DVD series, "The Hijacking of the Brain" have been used to train thousands of mental health professionals nationally; they have become the standards of teaching excellence in the addiction treatment profession. His new book, *The Pharmacology of Substance Use Disorders* will be released in 2016.



**Nakia Valentine, MBA**

[Nakia.valentine@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Nakia.valentine@dbhdd.ga.gov)

Nakia Valentine is the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Director for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities in the Office of Behavioral Prevention. She was formerly the Refugee Health and Mental Health Linkage Coordinator for the Georgia Department of Public Health. Nakia has worked as a Mental Health Case Manager in both Virginia and Ohio, and in Foster Care Linkage at the National Youth Advocate Program. She is a native of Columbus, OH and she attended The University of Cincinnati, where she graduated with a Bachelor's of Arts in African American Studies with a Concentration in Sociology. She also holds a Master's of Business Administration from The University of Phoenix.





**Phillip W. Graham**  
[pgraham@rti.org](mailto:pgraham@rti.org)

Phillip W. Graham is a senior public health researcher in RTI's Crime, Violence, and Justice Research program. He has extensive experience in conducting community-based research and evaluations related to public health issues. Since joining RTI, Dr. Graham has directed or worked on several projects focusing on the prevention of adolescent interpersonal violence and substance use. He has investigated the effects of witnessing community violence, the development of ethnic identity among African American male adolescents (for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]), the effectiveness of science-based interventions to reduce youth substance use (for the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention [CSAP]), and the impact of comprehensive school-based interventions and services to promote healthy child development and reduce youth violence and substance use (for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention [OJJDP], Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS], and Department of Education [DOE]).



**Pierluigi Mancini, Ph.D., NCACII**  
[pmancini@cetpa.org](mailto:pmancini@cetpa.org)

Dr. Mancini is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of CETPA, a nonprofit organization to providing evidenced-based, cultural and linguistically appropriate substance abuse, mental health counseling and prevention services with priority to the Latino community. CETPA is the only Latino behavioral health agency in Georgia to earn state licensing and national accreditation for providing integrated behavioral health services in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Currently Dr. Mancini is overseeing CETPA's implementation of several new projects including Open Access, Tele Behavioral Health, Statewide Underage Drinking, Suicide Prevention and Prescription Drug Prevention.

Dr. Mancini serves on the Advisory Board for SAMHSA's National Hispanic and Latino Addiction Technology Transfer Center Advisory Council, the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, and the National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils. He is the President of the Board of the National Latino Behavioral Health Association.



**Reinette V. Arnold, MSW, LCSW, MAC**  
[reinettevarnold@gmail.com](mailto:reinettevarnold@gmail.com)

Reinette is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Master Addiction Counselor with over 10 years of clinical, consulting, and program development experience in behavioral health and public health. Currently Reinette serves as the Community Collaborator with Behavioral Health Link (BHL) in Region 3. Her primary role allows her to develop and enhance partnerships to improve mobile crisis outcomes in the metro Atlanta area. As a strong advocate for a seamless system of care and vast experience with building effective collaborations, Reinette has been instrumental in engaging various stakeholders on improving access to behavioral health services and cross system collaborations. Reinette is

also a NAMI CIT facilitator, certified QPR instructor, and international focus group facilitator. Since joining BHL in 2013, Reinette became vested in suicide prevention. She takes pride in presenting on suicide prevention to various audiences to promote awareness, decrease stigma, and educate individuals on how to access services in a timely manner.



**Sally vander Straeten, MSW**  
[Sally.vanderStraeten@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Sally.vanderStraeten@dbhdd.ga.gov)

Sally is the Coordinator for the Suicide Prevention Program in DBHDD. She received her Master of Social Work from Syracuse University, and moved to Georgia after a thirty-year career in social work in North Carolina where she worked for one of the first early intervention programs in the country, became one of the first mandatory child custody mediators in the state and worked in social work education. As the DBHDD Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator she works to bring suicide prevention to Georgia communities through gatekeeper training, professional training, survivor services and prevention programs.



**Sarah K. Schwartz, MSW, MBA, MHA**  
[Sarah@mhageorgia.org](mailto:Sarah@mhageorgia.org)

Sarah Schwartz has over 22 years' experience in the healthcare industry. Her focus area within the field is mental health, in which she's worked as a clinician, researcher, organizational leader, and advocate.

Since 2007, Sarah has served as the Executive Director of Mental Health America (MHA) of Georgia, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the mental health of Georgians through education, outreach, and advocacy. MHA of Georgia is a turnkey mental health promotion organization, offering education, outreach, and advocacy that touch Georgians throughout the lifespan and across the state. Founded in 1946, the organization brings together mental health consumers, parents, advocates and service providers for collaboration and action. By focusing on prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery, MHA of Georgia builds partnerships and develops wellness programs across a wide range of topics that reach Georgians throughout the state. Our target population is all Georgians. We strive to promote mental wellness for everyone in our state. However, our direct work mostly impacts low-income, uninsured Georgians with a mental illness and those at high-risk of becoming mentally ill.

Prior to working at Mental Health America of Georgia, Sarah worked as a consultant manager for Fowler Healthcare Affiliates, a boutique healthcare consulting firm specializing in post-acute care services. Previous to this position, Sarah worked as a senior research project coordinator at Emory University School of Medicine and Carman Research, focusing on psychiatric clinical trials in schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, and anxiety. Earlier in her career, Sarah worked for Shepherd Center as a statistician, where she focused mostly on patients with traumatic brain injuries. She also worked at Families First doing cognitive behavioral therapy with families, individuals, and children.

Sarah holds Masters of Business Administration & Healthcare Administration degrees from Georgia State University, a Master of Social Work from the University of Georgia, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Emory University.



**Sheri McGuinness**  
[spangeorgia@aol.com](mailto:spangeorgia@aol.com)

Sheri McGuinness is President/CEO of the statewide non-profit organization, Suicide Prevention Action Network, Georgia. She is an inspirational author, consultant, speaker and presenter; and has spent 35 years writing in the business arena as well as experience in non-profit and project management, administration, program content development, and marketing. She recently launched her inspiring first book, *Choosing Hope Finding Joy*, which chronicles her personal journey navigating through trauma, grief, and loss.

She is a Survivor Services Specialist and has created strategies to develop services and support for survivors of a suicide loss in communities throughout Georgia. She is guiding, advising, and training individuals, organizations and communities in developing strategies to support families and individuals that are dealing with loss, grief and trauma statewide. Ms. McGuinness has played an integral role in Georgia's suicide prevention strategic development and work within communities creating education, awareness, advocacy, resources and support statewide. She has a dedicated, unyielding spirit with a heart for serving her fellow survivors and those at risk throughout Georgia and nationwide.



**Stephanie McCladdie, MPA**  
[Stephanie.McCladdie@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:Stephanie.McCladdie@samhsa.hhs.gov)

Stephanie McCladdie is the Regional Administrator for the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Region IV office in Atlanta, Georgia. SAMHSA's primary mission is to reduce the impact of Substance Abuse and Mental Illness on America's communities.

As Regional Administrator, Ms. McCladdie provides direct collaboration and liaison with Health and Human Services (HHS) colleagues in the eight (8) states of Region IV to assure that behavioral health issues are included in the overall goals and objectives. In addition, she facilitates assistance with diverse stakeholders to problem-solve and collaborate on grants, policies, systems and programs. In translating SAMHSA's mission and vision in the southeast, she is a direct conduit to optimize opportunities to strengthen systems improvement initiatives. She is also responsible for SAMHSA's communication with the six (6) federally recognized Tribes.

Ms. McCladdie is a military spouse of three plus decades. During her spouse's military career of nine duty location changes, she forged career(s) in grass-roots/community based organizations, private sector, four state governments and two university systems. Prior to joining SAMHSA, Ms. McCladdie served as the National Prevention Network (NPN) representative for the state of

Alabama. In her capacity as Prevention Services Director at the Department of Mental Health, she had direct responsibility for the twenty-percent set aside for Prevention services. During her tenure of almost eleven years, Ms. McCladdie was the Multicultural committee Co-Chair for the NPN and held the position of the past Co-Chairs for the National Prevention Network Research Conference. Her twenty-seven years of human service experience includes Human Rights advocate for the disabled and Older Adult population, Family Advocacy/Mental Health specialist while stationed in Great Britain for the Department of Defense, an Instructor of Psychiatry with the John A. Burns School of Medicine-University of Hawaii AIDS Education Project, staff specialist in Planning, Development & Evaluation in Dayton, Ohio, and a Project Director with Auburn University with direct collaboration for the Child Welfare system. As a military spouse and family member of an individual in recovery she is committed to the recovery oriented system of care and cultural implications of the continuum of care services.

She has received awards and recognition from educational, civic and faith-based organizations in the United Kingdom, Red Cross, Girls Scouts of America, University of Hawaii, Laubach Pro Literary Foundation and non-profit agencies.

Ms. McCladdie received a Bachelor of Science in Health Administration/Social Work and a Masters of Science Degree in Public Administration.



**Tiffany Chen**  
[Tiffany.chen@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Tiffany.chen@dbhdd.ga.gov)

Tiffany Chen is the Suicide Prevention Specialist in the Office of Behavioral Health Prevention at the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities. Before coming on board, Tiffany completed the first year of her MSPH in Health Education and Health Communication at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with a certificate in Mental Health Policy, Economics, and Services, and is currently finishing her degree with full-time work at DBHDD. She has prior experience in community-based nonprofits, particularly as the Health and Domestic Violence Program Manager at the Center for Pan Asian Community Services, as well as an academic background in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology with a minor in Sociology from Emory University. Tiffany also has research experience around a variety of topics in neuropsychology, neurobiology, sociology, and behavioral interventions.

**Tonia M. Schaffer, MPH**  
[tschaffer6797@gmail.com](mailto:tschaffer6797@gmail.com)

Tonia M. Schaffer, MPH, Public Health Advisor /Government Project Officer (GPO) responsible for monitoring and guiding the substance abuse prevention and tobacco prevention activities of five states including the Virgin Islands. In addition to her GPO responsibilities, she coordinates the division's activities to address health disparities within the prevention grants awarded to states. As the task lead, Ms. Schaffer coordinates the development of program policies, the creation of monitoring tools and evaluation protocols, and the provision of training and technical assistance to state grantees. In addition, she is responsible for organizing training sessions for the division staffs on health disparities, health equity, the National Standards for

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards, and protocols and tools to monitor grantee implementation of their strategies to address health disparities. Ms. Schaffer has presented at several conferences on the process undertaken to operationalize the SAMHSA's disparity impact strategy requirements in prevention programs and an analysis of the vulnerable populations identified by a state programs funded to provide substance abuse prevention services in high need communities. Her works extends to representing the Division of State Programs in efforts to institutionalize SAMHSA's strategy throughout the grant making operations, from the development of Requests for Application (RFAs) to grant monitoring and SAMHSA staff role at each implementation stage of the strategy.

Tonia Schaffer has extensive experience in substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, behavioral health, health policy, health disparities and organizational development. Ms. Schaffer has assisted a multitude of entities including minority colleges/universities, criminal justice institutions, community based organizations, state and local health departments, Congressional Representatives and federal agencies.



**Taunya A. Lowe, Ph.D.**

<http://www.drtaunyalowe.com/contacts/>

Dr. Lowe is an innovative, insightful, change agent who understands the concept of adding value to others. As a trainer and presenter, she is witty and engaging while offering practical solutions. Dr. Lowe is the author of *Wanna Start a Riot? Change*. Her areas of expertise include Affirmations, Confirmations, and Prayers, national and international training, consulting and coaching. She has served as a Consultant for Wellpoint Insurance Industries in the states of Georgia, Connecticut, California, Ohio and Virginia for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation of the Healthcare Exchanges; Coordinator for Women's Treatment Programs for the State of Georgia, Training Consultant for Deloitte's SACWIS Project with the Department of Family Services, Alabama; Program Coordinator for the YWCA of Greater Atlanta Encoreplus and the Georgia American Cancer Society where she lead countless numbers of volunteers.

Dr. Lowe is also a Visiting Professor for DeVry University, and a Consultant for the Southeast Addiction Technology Transfer Center located at Morehouse School of Medicine Center for Primary Care. Taunya earned a Doctorate degree in General Human Services and a certificate in Diversity Studies from Capella University; a Masters degree in Counseling and Psychological Services and a Bachelor's degree in Community Health Education, both from Clark Atlanta University. She is a trainer of the University of Georgia J.W. Fanning Institute of Leadership curriculum and a member of the John Maxwell Team. Among her many accolades, she was the Siegel Institute for Ethics, Leadership and Character 2013 Phenomenal Woman; has received the Statewide Community Service Award for improving the quality of life for women's gender specific substance abuse residential services; Business Superstar Community Service Award; featured on the cover of the 2012 People You Need to Know Atlanta Business Magazine; Recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Blacks in Government Chapter.



**Wes Nemenz**  
[wesnemenz@gmail.com](mailto:wesnemenz@gmail.com)

Wes Nemenz is an experienced trainer/educator on LGBTQ identities, LGBTQ youth, and their intersections with mental health. When not training and providing consultation services for providers working with the LGBTQ youth community, Wes serves as the Senior Strategist of LGBTQ Programs for Kognito, a social enterprise that creates online simulations to prepare people in various sectors for challenging conversations in public health, education and employment spheres.

Wes has an extensive history of advocating, empowering, and supporting LGBTQ people. Formerly the Senior Education Manager for The Trevor Project, the nation's leading suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ youth, Wes developed curriculum and resources in addition to presenting hundreds of trainings nationwide on suicide prevention, cultural competency and school safety. Wes has also served LGBTQ youth directly by coordinating and developing youth programs at the Long Island GLBT Services Network. He got his start through developing a social media presence and community organizing with Equality NC for the successful passage of North Carolina's School Violence Prevention Act, the South's first-ever LGBT-inclusive anti-bullying bill.

As graduate of the University of North Carolina Greensboro's Communication Studies program, Wes is a dynamic and engaging public speaker, an advocate for ethical communication and a proud voice for social justice.



**William DeJong, Ph.D.**  
[wdejong@bu.edu](mailto:wdejong@bu.edu)

William DeJong, Ph.D. is a Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH), where he teaches courses in intervention planning, program evaluation, and health communications. A graduate of Dartmouth College (1973), Dr. DeJong received his doctorate in social psychology from Stanford University (1977).

Dr. DeJong has been called upon frequently as an advisor by colleges, universities, and other organizations concerned about problems related to alcohol and other drug use. Highlights include serving as a member of the Board of Directors of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (1993-1996) and as a member of MADD's Youth Commission (1995-1996) and Commission on Colleges (1999-2001), and serving as a member of the Panel on Prevention and Treatment of College Alcohol Problems, Subcommittee on College Drinking, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), Bethesda, MD (1998-2002). His service on boards of directors and advisory boards includes terms with several additional organizations.

Dr. DeJong is the author of over 400 professional publications in the fields of alcohol and tobacco control, health communications, health promotion, criminal justice, and social psychology. Many of these publications focus on issues related to alcohol and other drug (AOD) problems among college students. Over the past 25 years, he has participated in over 200 conferences and workshops as a keynote speaker, invited speaker, or discussant.



## Exhibitors



DBHDD

**Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities  
Office of Behavioral Health Prevention**

Barbara Dorman

[barbara.dorman@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:barbara.dorman@dbhdd.ga.gov)



**EMORY**  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE

**Center for Maternal Substance  
Abuse and Child Development**

Department of Psychiatry  
and Behavioral Sciences

**Emory Center for Maternal  
Substance Abuse and Child  
Development**

Karen Howell, PhD,

[khowell@emory.edu](mailto:khowell@emory.edu)



**Georgia Department of  
Public Health**

**GA Tobacco Prevention**

Anne Coleman, PhD



**georgia teen institute**

**Georgia Teen Institute**

Sarah Stokes

[sarah@guideinc.org](mailto:sarah@guideinc.org)



**Hodac**

Hodac Helplines

**HELPLINE Georgia**

Sherri Peavy

[speavy@hodac.org](mailto:speavy@hodac.org)



## Let's Be Clear Georgia

A Collaborative to Prevent Marijuana Abuse

### Let's Be Clear Georgia

Gregg Raduka, PhD,

[graduka@livedrugfree.org](mailto:graduka@livedrugfree.org)



Mental Health America of Georgia

Sarah Schwartz

[sara@mhageorgia.org](mailto:sara@mhageorgia.org)



### Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Initiative

John Bringuel

[jbringuel@livedrugfree.org](mailto:jbringuel@livedrugfree.org)



## IC&RC

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION & RECIPROCITY CONSORTIUM

### Prevention Credentialing Consortium of Georgia

John Bringuel

[jbringuel@livedrugfree.org](mailto:jbringuel@livedrugfree.org)



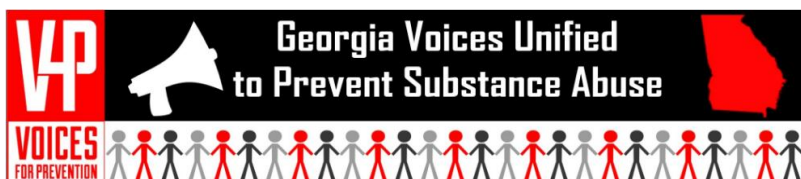
## SPAN-GA

Suicide Prevention Action Network, Georgia

### Suicide Prevention Action Network – Georgia

Sheri McGuinness

[spcgeorgia@gmail.com](mailto:spcgeorgia@gmail.com)



### Voices For Prevention

Brittney Newton

[brittney@ccapsa.org](mailto:brittney@ccapsa.org)

## Extracurricular Conference Activities (Optional)

### Popcorn & A Movie on Us

Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, at 7:30PM

Longleaf CDE Room

Disney's Pixar "Inside Out"

### Conference Hiking

Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, at 5PM

Come hiking with fellow attendees

Ask Sheena Berry for details

### Conference Biking

Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, at 5PM

Come biking with fellow attendees

Ask Brian Le for details

### Hunter's Club Dinner (Reservations Required)

Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, at 6PM

Come and feast!

Ask Sheena Berry for details

## Callaway Area Attractions and Activities

<http://callawaygardens.com/>

**Hiking Nature Trails at Callaway** are Open Daily, 9 a.m to Dusk

For the casual walker and the serious hikers. Check out the website for more details.

Azalea Trail is a 1.6-mile path that weaves through the Overlook Azalea Garden.

Callaway Brothers Azalea Bowl is a network of wide, paved paths that criss-cross 40-acres of hillside gardens.

Holly Trail and Thornhill Hydrangea Garden is a .8 mile trail located in the Meadowlark Garden.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Trail is a .6 mile wildflower trail located in Meadowlark Gardens.

Mountain Creek Trail is a 1.5 mile woodland path that rambles along the water's edge.

Rhododendron Trail is a .6-mile route near the Day Butterfly Center.

Whippoorwill Lake Trail is a .5 mile hike near the Overlook Azalea Garden.

**Biking at Callaway** - Daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Last daily rentals at 3:30 p.m.)

**DISCOVERY BICYCLE TRAIL** is a wide, paved surface that meanders for 10 miles through a variety of scenic woodland environments, with entries and stops along the way for guests of all ages.

**RENTAL BICYCLES** are available daily, based on availability, at the Virginia Hand Callaway Discovery Center and The Lodge and Spa. Call 1.800.852.3810 for daily and weekly rates and more information.

### **Disclaimer:**

As noted, all "Extracurricular Activities" are **optional**. While some of these activities may cause risk of injury, harm and or death, neither DBHDD nor OBHP are responsible for the outcomes connected with these activities. Additionally, fees for these activities **are not** covered under the conference and therefore are an additional cost to the participant.

## BH/OBHP Staff:

**Monica Johnson, Behavioral Health Director**

[Monica.Johnson@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Monica.Johnson@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Travis Fretwell, Office of Behavioral Health Prevention Director**

[Travis.Fretwell@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Travis.Fretwell@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Barbara Dorman, Executive Assistant**

[Barbara.Dorman@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Barbara.Dorman@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Donna Dent, Assistant Director**

[Donna.Dent@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Donna.Dent@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Amy Benson, SPF Coordinator**

**Interim Gen Rx Coordinator**

[Amy.Benson@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Amy.Benson@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Nykia Greene-Young, Regional Prevention Specialist Supervisor**

**Interim Regional Prevention Specialist - Region 3**

[Nykia.Greene-Young@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Nykia.Greene-Young@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Brian Le, Regional Prevention Specialist - Region 1**

[Brian.Le2@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Brian.Le2@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Sheena Berry, Regional Prevention Specialist - Region 2**

[Sheena.Berry@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Sheena.Berry@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Trese Flowers, Regional Prevention Specialist - Region 6**

[Trese.Flowers@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Trese.Flowers@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Cathy Wendholt-McDade, Regional Prevention Specialist - Region 4 & 5**

[Cathy.Wendholt-McDade@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Cathy.Wendholt-McDade@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Tricia Mills, SYNAR/Special Projects Administrator**

[Tricia.Mills@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Tricia.Mills@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Yvonne Jarrett, Business Operations Generalist**

[Yvonne.Jarrett@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Yvonne.Jarrett@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Sally vander Straeten, Suicide Prevention Coordinator**

[Sally.vanderStraeten@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Sally.vanderStraeten@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Nakia Valentine, GLS Youth Suicide Prevention Director**

[Nakia.Valentine@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Nakia.Valentine@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Tiffany Chen, Suicide Prevention Specialist**

[Tiffany.Chen@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Chen@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**A Special Thank You To**

**Prospectus Group  
MTS Tracking  
Callaway Gardens  
All this year's presenters**

**See You Next Year!**



*Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities  
Office of Behavioral Health Prevention  
2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30303*

*404-232-1251*

*[dbhdd.georgia.gov](http://dbhdd.georgia.gov)*